A NARRATIVE OF THE PROCESS AGAINST Madam Brinvilliers;

AND OF

Her Condemnation and Execution,

For having

Poisoned her Father and Two Brothers.

Translated out of *FRENCH.*

Licensed July 17. 1676.

ROGER L'ESTRANGE.

LONDON:

Printed for *Jonathan Edwyn*, at the Sign of the Three Roses in *Ludgate-Street.* MDCLXXVI.

A NARRATIVE OF THE PROCESS AGAINST Madam Brinvilliers;

AND OF

Her Condemnation and Execution,

For having

Poisoned her Father and Two Brothers.

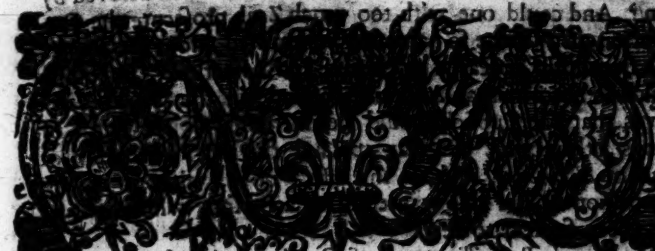
Translated out of FRENCH.

Licensed July 17. 1676.

ROGER L'ESTRANGE.

LONDON:

Printed for Jonathan Edwyn, at the Sign of the Three Roses in Ludgate-Street. MDCLXXVI.



A NARRATIVE

Of the Process against Madam *BRINVILLIERS*.

THE Prosecution of Madam *d'Aubray* against Madam *Brinvilliers*, was the last duty which she could render to the memory of Monsieur the Lieutenant Civil, her deceased Husband. After she had bewailed his death, she ought to revenge it; and the grief to see her self robbed of a Husband so dear to her, and in so sad a manner, begot in her those just resentments she hath shown against the Authors of her unhappiness. Could it ever have been believed that the Poison of which he died should have been given him by Madam *Brinvilliers*, his own Sister, for whom he had always a great tenderness?

Could one have mistrusted the hand of one so well beloved by him? And could one with too much Zeal prosecute the Reparation of a Crime so hainous, committed under the shelter of a friendship endeared by Nature and Affection? The noise which so notorious an Action hath made in the World, deserves that the Publick should be instructed of the truth of things, that every one may applaud the just Prosecution of Madam *d'Aubray*, and see the effect of it, without having compassion on her who wanted it for a Person, who ought to have been so dear to her.

Madam *de Brinvilliers* was of Quality, being the Daughter to the Sieur *d'Aubray* Lieutenant Civil; an Imployment worth 50000 *livres* yearly: She was Educated with great care: She had both of Wit and Estate more than was necessary to make her happy: In her Family she had no other example but of a perfect Honour, and irreproachable Vertue. To conclude, all things seemed to promise in her a Life quiet, honourable and regular, answerable to the merit of her Ancestors and her Relations. She was married about the year 1651. to the Marquis *de Brinvilliers*: But Love and Interest does strangely corrupt the Mind, what tincture soever it may have of Honour and Vertue, with violent Passions, which seconded with opportunity and other means, become at last solely predominant; first one accustoms himself to imagine things, then to wish them, and finally to execute them; the Impression of a severe Education is effaced by degrees, and one falls insensibly into the disorder occasioned by those passions, and so becomes capable to commit the greatest Crimes.

St. *Croix*, the miserable St. *Croix*, the most wicked Wretch of all mankind, was known to the Sieur *Brinvilliers*: he had seen him at the Army; and this wicked Man, who was of mean Birth, without any Estate or Fortune, did industriously seek his friendship, to profit of the excessive Expences which the Sieur *Brinvilliers* made. The Familiarity he had with the Husband, was soon converted to the Lady. He had a great deal of Wit, and knew the secret of engaging her; and after having

having, according to the Rules, performed all the part of Men passionately in Love, he became so absolutely Master of the Heart of the Lady, that he compleated her ruine, together with that of her Estate to which her Husband had very much contributed, and made her Mind susceptible of all the wicked Impressions he gave her.

The Familiarity of Madam *de Brinvilliers* with St. *Croix*, soon made a noise in the Family. Monsieur the Lieutenant Civil her Father used his utmost endeavour to break it; and not being able to succeed by ordinary means, was forced to have recourse to the King's Authority, whose Order he obtained to Arrest the Gallant, which he did as he was in the Coach of Madam *Brinvilliers*, conveying him to the *Bastille*, where he remained a Prisoner a whole year. What rage did not this create in these two Lovers, whose Pleasures were thus disturbed, in a manner so outrageous? The desire of revenge does easily seize a Spirit full of despair; but what could Madam *Brinvilliers* do without an assistance as wicked as was that of which she was deprived? Could she in any other find those Counsels and Helps for the executing the Revenge she meditated against her own Father?

In the mean time St. *Croix* was in the *Bastille*, where he learnt very strange Lessons of an *Italian*, who was a Prisoner with him, and was a great Artist in making of Poisons: He finding a man enraged with the affront he pretended to have received, and believing him capable of the greatest Crimes, imparted to him his most detestable Secrets. In short time St. *Croix* became very expert in them; and after his liberty, came and presented himself to Madam *Brinvilliers*, in a capacity to offer her a sure way to be revenged. Their correspondence grew more intimate than it had been before, and was increased by the opposition it had from others: And now their principal thoughts were how to prevent the Disquiets that might be given them, and to revenge those they had already suffered. Wherefore the Relations must be put out of the way, who were always troublesom to this particular; and Poison was the infallible Means which Madam

Brin-

Brinvilliers and *St. Croix* composed at one *Glaser* an Apothecary; on the other hand she had an Eye to the Estate of her Family, which would be a great help to re-establish her ruined Fortune. She then resolves, and being animated with these three motives of *Love*, *Revenge*, and *Interest*, she receives from *St. Croix* the Poison which she gave her Father, who in 1666 going to *Offernon*, which belonged to him, to settle matters with his Tenants; Madam *Brinvilliers* accompanied him; and taking the advantage of the time, she put her poison into some Broth which she gave him, which worked so violently, that he was immediately taken with extraordinary Vomitings, and all other the effects of it; insomuch that he was forced to return to *Paris*, without finishing his affairs. He lay in great torment till his death, which followed soon after. Oh the miserable Wretch, that could poison her Father with her own hands.

Messieurs her Brothers remained yet, and they inherited the trouble and impatience their Father had had, at the dishonourable commerce of their Sister with *St. Croix*; they used their endeavours to break it, and drew upon themselves the same revenge. See the manner. *St. Croix* had had a Servant named *la Chaussee*, worthy of his affection and confidence; him they got into the Family of Monsieur *d'Aubray* the Counsellor. Had the private Engagement this Fellow had with *St. Croix* been known, without doubt he would have mistrusted him, and never have trusted him in his Family. But this Secret was kept from him; and this Miscreant had all the opportunity possible to poison the whole Family.

One day as he waited at Table at the House of Monsieur *Aubray*, the Lieutenant Civil, where Monsieur *d'Aubray* the Counsellor dined, he affected to stay in the room, whereas all the other Servants were gone out for the second Course; and having put some of his Poison into a Glass of Drink, he gave it to the Lieutenant Civil; the Dose was so strong, that the Lieutenant, at the first tasting it, rose from Table in an amazement, crying out, *Brother, your Man would poison me.* Could one believe that so just a suspicion should not have been

further

further examined, and that they would have been satisfied with the excuse of the Servant, who said, That the Glass had, without doubt, been used to give a Purge to one of the Servants that was sick, and that that had left a bitterness behind in, which the Lieutenant perhaps tasted.

At length *la Chaussée* finished what he had before begun: For attending Monsieur *d'Aubray* the Counsellor to *Villequoy*, where was likewise Monsieur *d'Aubray*, the Lieutenant Civil, in *April* 1670. he had opportunity to mingle his poison in a Pie, of which seven persons that did eat were very ill; but Monsieur the Lieutenant Civil was extremely tormented: He returned from *Villequoy* the 12 of *April*, altogether changed through what he had suffered; his pains continued, and accompanied him to his death, which was in *June* following.

Monsieur *d'Aubray* the Counsellor held out longer; but *la Chaussée* had all the opportunity imaginable, to give him another Dose, being in his Family. He died soon after, with the same symptoms, and with the same circumstances as his Brother.

After their death, they were both opened, and by the report of the Sieur *Bachat* their Phylician, it appeared,

That for the three last days, which Monsieur the Lieutenant Civil lived, he grew lean, very dry, lost his appetite, vomited often, and had a burning in his stomach. And having been opened in the presence of him, of Du Vaut and Du Pré Chirurgeons, and Gavart an Apothecary, they found his stomach all black, the Liver gangreen'd and burnt, &c. *which must have been occasioned by poison, or a humor which sometimes is so corrupted, as to have the same effects as poison. That Monsieur* d'Aubray *the Counsellor was sick three months, his distemper being violent, and like to that of his Brother, viz. a violent Feaver, no appetite, his body burnt, and parched outwardly, great thirst, his skin, body and mind, which are almost undoubted signs of poison. Nevertheless it may happen, that a* Cacochymie *may have the same effect.*

The

The death of so many in one Family, made a great noise every where; and whether through what the Physicians might have said, or through the extraordinary symptoms of a disease, so rare and unknown, and yet common to a whole illustrious Family, the report went, that Messieurs *d'Aubray* were poisoned; *La Chaussee*, the cruel Minister of the passions of others, had so cunningly behaved himself, that never any suspition was had of him: He had even so far gained the favour of his Master, that to recompense his services, he left him as he was dying a Legacy of 100 Crowns. But behold what discovered all these things, which otherwise must have been wrapped up in an eternal silence, and buried in the grave of Messieurs *d'Aubray*.

Saint Croix being suffocated with the vapours of the poison he prepared for others, died so suddenly, that all his Goods were seized upon by the Officers, whose care it is, before his greatest Confidents knew of his misfortune. *La Chaussee* imagining, that he might be able to draw some advantage from this accident, came thither, and made his opposition in these terms.

Opposition of la Chaussee, *who said, That it is seven years since he served the deceased: That he had within two years given him to keep for him* 100 *Pistols, and* 100 *Crowns, which were in a Linnen Bag behind the Window of his Closet: And that in the said Closet are several Papers which concern him; wherefore said Moneys and Papers he demands.*

This Wretch, to whom nothing was due, by this Act gave occasion for the suspition which was had of him; and this contrivance, which engaged him in the affairs of St. Croix, made him do and say things, which brought him to that sad death of being broken upon the Wheel.

In the mean time Madam *de Brinvilliers* was in terrible pain to know what was become of the little Cabinet, which was in St. Croix's Closet, in which were all the poisons. She went

to

to find out the Commissary to get it into her hands at what price soever; she was not sparing of her money; she offered and did all that was possible to have it, before it was opened.

The Familiarity which she had had with this wicked Wretch was publick, every one was informed of it, and therefore no body wondred that she had made him her confident, to keep that Cabinet for her; but her very eager and extraordinary manner of demanding it gave occasion for some suspition; which made the Officers the more difficult in the matter, who proceeded with all exactness to take off the Seal, and to make an Inventory of the said Cabinet, as follows.

In the Closet of *St. Croix* was found a little Cabinet about a foot square; the Key was found on a shelf in the Closet. At the opening of the Cabinet was found half a sheet of Paper, written as follows.

I humbly pray those, into whose hands this Cabinet may fall, to do me the favour to restore it with their own hands to Madam the Marquis of Brinvilliers, *dwelling in the New Street of St.* Paul; *seeing that what is in it concerns her, and belongs to her onely; and that there is nothing which can be of any use or profit to any other person whatsoever. And in case she be dead before me, to burn it, and all that is in it, without opening or stirring any thing: And to the end none may pretend cause of ignorance, I swear by the God, whom I adore, and all that is most Sacred, that nothing be imposed, which is not true, in case my just and reasonable intentions, in this particular, are contravened. I charge both in this and in the other World their Consciences for the discharge of mine, protesting, that it is my last Will. Done at* Paris *this 25 of* May, 1672. *Signed,* St. Croix. *And below was these words,* There is one Packquet *directed to Mr.* Penautier, *which must be rendred him. There was likewise found a Packquet, sealed with eight several Seals, on which was writ,* Papers to be burnt in case of death.

not being of any consequence to any person. I humbly pray those into whose hands they may fall, to burn them now and to change their Consciences to do it, without opening the Packet. In this Packet was found another, filled with Drogue de Sublime.

Item, Another Packet with six several Seals, on which was the same Inscription, in which was found half an ounce of Sublime in powder.

Item, Another Packet with six several Seals, on which was the same Inscription, and in it were three other Packets: in one was found half an ounce of Sublime, two ounces in the other, and a quarter of an ounce of Vitriol Romain. In the third Packet, Vitriol prepared. In the Cabinet was found a square Vial of a pint, full of clear Water; which having been examined by Monsieur Moreau, Physician, he said, He could not tell the quality of it, till he had made an Experiment.

Item, Another Vial of a quarter of a pint of clear Water, with a whitish Settlement at the bottom; of which Moreau saw the Effects of the former.

A little Earthen Pot, in which was three quarters of an ounce of Opium.

Item, A Paper folded up, in which were two drams of Sublime in powder.

A little Box, in which was a kind of Stone, called the Infernal Stone.

Another Paper, in which was an ounce of Opium.

A piece of Anthimone, weighing three ounces.

A paper with Powder under a cover, on which was written, To stop the loss of blood in Women. Moreau said, That it was made of the Flowers of Quince, and of the Core of dried Quince.

Item, Was found a Packet, sealed with six Seals, on which

which was written, Papers to be burnt in case of death, *&c. as above; in which were found thirty four Letters, which, its said, were written by Madam* Brinvilliers.

Item, *Another Pacquet sealed with six Seals, which had the same Superscription as above, in which was found twenty seven several pieces of paper, on each whereof was written several curious Secrets.*

Item, *Another Pacquet with six Seals, on which was the same Superscription as above, in which was found 75 Lovers, directed to divers particular persons.*

Thus you have seen the Inventory of this dreadful Cabinet. Will it not be said, that *St. Croix* was very Religious, and that he was very well with Heaven, seeing under the reverence of all that was Sacred, he pretended to rob the World of the knowledge of the Legacy he left to Madam *de Brinvilliers*? An execrable Man! must he escape Humane Justice! and could not *Paris* have the pleasure, to see this publick Enemy of the lives of men, so much the more dangerous, as the more secret, suffer by the hand of the Hangman a thousand torments, to revenge as many deaths, of which perhaps he was guilty?

Who does not see the great Interest which Madam *de Brinvilliers* had, to get his Cabinet into her own hands? she omitted nothing to effect it; and when she saw her endeavors were vain, she resolved to withdraw her self. She departed in the night from her Lodging, and appeared no more, but as a person who endeavoured by her flight to avoid the just punishment of the Crimes of which she was guilty.

Finally, by the counsel of her own Relations, she retired out of the Kingdom, to seek among Strangers the security, which she could not have in her own Country. She flies then, while *Lamane Procureur, au Chastelet* appears in the verbal Process concerning the taking of the Seal. The Act follows.

Hath appeared Alexander de Lamane, Procureur *of the Dame* de Brinvilliers, *who says, That if in the said*

 Cabinet,

Cabinet, as is alledged by the Widow of St. Croix, there hath been found a promise, signed by her, of the sum of 30000 Livers; it is a thing that was gotten of her by surprize, which even in case her hand be proved, she supposes she is able to shew why it should be declared Null.

This Promise or Obligation was found in the Cabinet of *St. Croix*; the Date is remarkable, for it was at the same time that the Messieurs *d'Aubray* were poisoned. In the mean time, *la Chaussée* affrighted with what he was told of the strange things that were found in *St. Croix*'s Closet, shewed so much of confusion in his actions and discourse, that he encreased the suspicion men had before of his crimes. He was Arrested, Convicted, Condemned, and Executed. Madam *de Brinvilliers* was involved in that prosecution, and from that time was judged criminal: And on those Proofs that then appeared against her, and those that were produced afterwards, she was Arrested at *Liege*, where, after having wandred through several Countreys, she lived under a false name.

The better to understand her case, it is necessary to examine what hath been said by the Witnesses, and what she has done, said, or written her self. Which we shall briefly do.

The two first Witnesses against her are the two Confidents of her Crimes, *St. Croix* and *la Chaussée*. For what regards *St. Croix*, we need only read the Paper found in his Cabinet. It is unnecessary to add any reflections, which may render it the stronger against Madam *Brinvilliers*, every one may see with what execrations he assures, that the whole Cabinet belonged to her, &c. Then consider the great eagerness of Madam *de Brinvilliers* to get this Cabinet into her hands, as among other Witnesses, the Clerk of the Commissary *Picard* declares, who deposes:

That Dame Brinvilliers *came to his Master about ten at night, willed to speak with him. To which he answering, His Master was in bed, she bid him go up, and tell him, That she came to demand a Cabinet that belonged to her,*

and would have it without opening. The Commissary having sent down word that he slept, she said she would send her Servant for it the next Morning.

Now see what *la Chaussee* declared after having been put upon the Wrack, touched without doubt with remorse, which ordinarily closes the last minutes of a wretched life.

La Chaussee being released from the Wrack, Monsieur the Rapporteur being withdrawn about half an hour after la Chaussee *prayed him to return. He told the Rapporteur, That he was guilty; that St. Croix had told him, that the Dame* Brinvilliers *had given him the poison to poison her Brothers; that he had poisoned them in Water and Broths; that he had put a Reddish-water into the Glass of the Lieutenant Civil at Paris, and a clear Water into the Pot at* Villequoy; *that St. Croix had promised him 100 Pistols, and always to keep him; that he had given St. Croix an account of the effect of the poison. That St. Croix had given him often of those Waters; that St. Croix had told him that the Dame* Brinvilliers *knew nothing of his poisonings, but he believes she knew of them, because she always discoursed to him of his poisons; that she would have obliged him to fly, and gave him two Crowns to be gone; that she asked him, Where was the Cabinet, and what was in it; that if St. Croix could have put any body near Madam d'Aubray, Wife to the Lieutenant Civil, he would perhaps have done it to poison her; that he had a great mind to poison the said Lady.*

This Declaration of a Dying Man, needs no Commentary. The difficulty which seems in these places which appear to contradict each other concerning the Dame *Brinvilliers*, in that St. *Croix* said, he had received the poisons he gave to her Brothers from her, and yet that she knew nothing of his poisonings, is very easie to be explained. It may be that of all

the

the poisonings of St. Croix, she did only precisely know of those of her Brothers; but for those it is very plain she did know them; and that she gave the poison, that is, that she consented, advised, and ordered the poison. That Wretch St. Croix hath perhaps destroyed so many persons; and hath so often given new poisonous Waters to la Chaussee, that he was ashamed to boast of all his Crimes, even to his greatest Confidents: so taking this particular expression out of the general Declaration, it remains notorious that she knew of his poisoning the Lieutenant Civil, and the Counsellor her Brothers. Let's now pass to the other Witnesses.

Cluet Sergent *says, That he saw* la Chaussee *serve as a Lacquey to the Counsellor* d'Aubray, *whom he had likewise seen in the service of St.* Croix; *that he had told Madam* Brinvilliers, *that if the Lieutenant Civil did know that* la Chaussee *had belonged to St.* Croix, *that he would not take it well; that she had answered him, Good God, tell it not to my Brothers, they will give him the Bastonade, it is better that he get something than another. Wherefore the Deponent said nothing to the Sieurs* d'Aubray, *though he saw* la Chaussee *go daily to St.* Croix *and to Madam* Brinvilliers, *who courted St.* Croix *to have her Cabinet, and would have him give her his Note for 2 or 3000 Pistols, or that otherwise she would cause him to be stopped. That she had said, That she would not have any body see what was in the Cabinet, that it was a thing of great consequence which concerned her. The Deponent adds, That after the opening the Cabinet, he telling Madam* Brinvilliers *that the Commissary* Picard *had told* la Chaussee *that he had found strange things there, she blushed, and changed the discourse; that he asked her whether she was accessary; and that she answered, wherefore I: that* la Chaussee *ought to be sent into* Picardy; *that it was long since she had been at St.* Croix *Lodging*

to

to have the Cabinet, and that if she had got it, she would have caused his throat to be cut. This Deponent adds further, That saying to Briancourt, that la Chaussee was taken, and that he would tell all, he answered, Behold a lost Woman! That the Demoiselle d'Aubray having said that Briancourt was a Rascal, he had answered, That she knew not the Obligation she had to him; that some would have poisoned her and the Lieutenant Civil, and that he had prevented it. That he, the Deponent, had heard Briancourt say, that Madam Brinvilliers told him, that there were ways to make away with people that displeased her, and that she always talked of poison.

Edme Huet, Wife to Briceir, saith, That St. Croix went every day to Madam Brinvilliers; that she saw in a Cabinet belonging to the said Lady two little Boxes, in which she saw Sublimé in paste and in powder, which she knew very well being the Daughter of an Apothecary. Adds, That the said Lady having one day Dined with company, and being brisk, shewed her a small Box, saying, There was wherewithal to revenge her self on her Enemies, and that it was full of Successions, and then put it into her hands, and being returned from her Gaiety, said to her, Good God, what have I told you? do not tell it to any body. That Lambert Clerk of the Palais had told her the deponent, that he had carried the said two Boxes to Madam Brinvilliers from St. Croix; that la Chaussee went often to her House; that not having seen any Ten Pistols which were owing him by the said Dame, he went and made her complaint to St. Croix, and threatned to tell the Lieutenant Civil what he had seen, which was the reason that the said Ten Pistols were paid him; that the said Dame de Brinvilliers and St. Croix carried always poyson about them, to make use of if they were taken.

Laurence

Laurence Petrelle *living with* Glazel *the Apothecary, deposes, That he hath often seen a Lady come to his Master with* St. Croix, *that the Footman told him it was Madam* de Brinvilliers; *that he would lay his Head it was to compose poison; and that when they came, they left their Coach at the Foire of* St. Germain.

Marie de Villeray, *a Gentlewoman attending the Lady* Brinvilliers, *deposes, That since the death of* Monsieur d'Aubray *the Counsellor,* la Chaussee *came to find the said Lady, and spake to her in private; that* Brinvilliers *told her that the Dame* Brinvilliers *was the death of honourable Persons, who might be a help to her Children; that he daily took* Orvietan *for fear of being poisoned; that he was afraid of being murthered, because she had told him her secret concerning poisoning; that* Madamoiselle d'Aubray *ought to be acquainted with the intention some had to poison her; that there was likewise a design against the Governour of the Children of the said Lady.*

François des Grais *exempt, deposes, That according to the Kings Orders, he seized at* Liege *the Dame* de Brinvilliers; *that he found under her Bed a Cabinet, which he sealed up; that the said Dame desired of him a Paper that was there, which was her confession, and that he refused her; that on the way to* Paris *the Dame* de Brinvilliers *told him, that she believed it was* Glazel *which made the poison for* St. Croix; *that* St. Croix *had given her a meeting at the Cross* St. Honore, *shewed her four small Bottles, and told her, See what* Glazel *has sent me, that she asked him for me; that* St. Croix *told her, that he would rather die than give it her.*

Adds, That at Maestricht Theria *would have corrupted his Archers, and offered them* 1000 *Pistols if they would save her.*

Theria

Theria *being confronted, says,* (he was obliged to witneſs againſt her, to ſave himſelf) *That being parted from* Maſtricht, la Violette *told him, That the Dame* Brinvilliers *had a Pin, which ſhe would put into her mouth; upon which he ſaid to her, That ſhe was very miſerable, and that he very well ſaw, that what was ſaid of her was true, that ſhe had poiſoned her whole Family. To which ſhe anſwered, That if ſhe had, it was through wicked Counſel. That one has not always good moments.*

Claude Rolla Archer *depoſes, That ſeeing the Dame* de Brinvilliers *would ſwallow a Pin, he ſaid to her, What, will you make away with your own life? Are you not contented to have poiſoned your Family? To which ſhe anſwered, If ſhe had done it, it was through wicked Counſel.*

Anthony Barbier Archer *depoſes, That he was preſent when the Dame* de Brinvilliers *was arreſted; that being at Table, and drinking out of a Glaſs, ſhe would have bitten a piece of it. That ſhe had told him, That if he would ſave her, ſhe would make his fortune. That ſhe had written ſeveral Letters to* Theria. *That during the whole Journey, ſhe did all ſhe could to ſwallow Glaſs, Earth, and Pins. That ſhe propoſed to him to cut the throat of* de Grais, *to kill the* Valet de Chambre *of Monſieur the Commiſſary. That he ſhould take and burn the Cabinet; that to that end he ſhould bring a lighted Match to burn all. That after being brought to* Paris, *ſhe had written to Monſieur* Penautier *of the Conciergerie; that ſhe gave him the Letter, and that he made her believe he carried it.*

Frances Roullet *ſays, That ſhe has been in the ſervice of the Dame* de Brinvilliers. *That ſhe gave her one day ſome preſerves to eat on the point of a knife; that ſhe was*

ill presently after. That she gave her likewise a piece of Gammon of Bacon, which she eat, and since that time has had great pains in her stomach, it being as if her heart was pricked. That she has been three years in this condition, and believes she is poisoned.

There were several other Witnesses, who deposed against Madam *de Brinvilliers*; but should we particularize them all, they would fill many sheets: Let it suffice, that nothing was heard from them but of poison. *Briancourt* has not as yet spoke but perhaps he will one day discover to the world the truth of many things, of which he is the depository.

Let us now look into the conduct of the Dame *de Brinvilliers*, in what she has said and writ; She is a clear Witness against herself, and without stirring from her, you may find a conviction of all her crimes.

A good and pious action may remain unknown to the world, and the mind of Man made for virtue, gives it self thereunto without the knowledge of any one; while a wicked person cannot disguise his crimes, and that his Soul continually alarm'd with the fear of being discovered, puts on his countenance the true colour of his apprehensions, and publishes to the world the crime he would hide. This Morality's not here seasonable; but it is certain, that we see few wicked actions, which the carriage of the Authors do not sooner or later discover.

Let us examine what were the sentiments of the Dame *de Brinvilliers*. We find she had an extreme Love for *St. Croix*, and a great desire to restore her ruined Fortune; the rage and despair to see her Love offended, and her Pleasures disturbed, put into her thoughts many things against her Relations; and the hope of the advantage of so ample a succession, made her follow with her pleasure the first dictates of her revenge. She expects all from the cunning of her Gallant, to whom she shares her Estate. She relies much upon her own quality, and on the great Relations she still had. Finally,

abandoning

abandoning her self to Love and Interest, she gives the poison to her Father, and causes the same to be done to her two Brothers. Behold the crime, none see her conduct which discovered it. And first let us examine the promise of 30000 Livers made to *St. Croix*, received by him, the date of which agrees with the time of her poisoning her Brothers; and who will not judge, without making any farther reflection, but that it was the price of their lives. She lived in greater familiarity with *St. Croix* than before; she favourably receives *la Chaussee*; she boasts of the services he had done her. Can any one doubt, but that this was a deference she had for her Accomplices? But let us proceed, and observe her eagerness to have that Cabinet, her despair that she could not effect it. Let us follow her to *London*, thence into *Germany*, and other Foreign Countreys, where she still carried with her the fear and apprehension of the punishment she had merited.

These sufficiently discover her guilt. But now let us see what she answers for her self in the Interrogatories that were put to her.

She said, *That she withdrew out of* France, *because of the affair she had with her Sister-in-law. That in her Cabinet were several Papers of her Family, and amongst others her General Confession; that when she writ it, her mind was wholly distracted; that she knew not what she writ; her Spirit being wholly discomposed, to see her self in a strange Countrey, without assistance of her Relations, reduced to borrow a Crown.*

Being interrogated on the first Article of her Confession, what House it was she set on fire? answered, *Never to have done it; that when she writ it, her mind was distracted.*

Being interrogated on six other Articles of her Confession, answered, *That she knows not what it was, and that she remembers nothing thereof.*

Being interrogated whether she had not poisoned her Father and two Brothers, said, *She knew nothing of it.*

Being asked, whether it was not *la Chaussee* who poisoned her Brothers, said, *She knew nothing of it.*

Being asked whether she knew not, that her Sister could

made it so long, for that she had been poisoned; answers, *That she foresaw it, for that her Sister was subject to the same infirmities that she was. That she had lost her memory since the time she went her Confession.* Confessed to have left *France* at the advice of her Relations.

Being asked wherefore that advice was given her, answers, *Because of the affair of her Brothers.* *Confesses to have seen* St. Croix *after he came out of the* Bastill.

Being asked whether *St. Croix* had not perswaded her to make away with her Father, says, *She does not remember; neither does she remember whether* St. Croix *gave her any Powders or Drugs; or whether* St. Croix *said, That he knew the way to make himself rich.*

Being asked wherefore she made a promise of 30000 Livres to *St. Croix*, said, *That she pretended to put this sum into the hands of* St. Croix, *to make use thereof when she should have need, believing him to be so much her friend, as not to let it be known to her Creditors. That she had an Indemnity from* St. Croix, *which she hath lost in her Journeys. That her Husband knew nothing of this promise.*

Being asked whether this promise was made before or after the death of her Brothers, said, *She could not remember, and that it was nothing to the purpose.* And afterwards she said, *That* St. Croix *caused one of his Friends to lend her the same sum; and desired her to make the said promise to him.*

Confesses to have been twice at *Glazar* about some indisposition.

Being asked about the Letters written to the Sieur *Penautier*, says, *That if she did write to him to cause* Martin *to escape, it was to try the fidelity of* Barbier Archer, *in whom she pretended to have great confidence.*

Being asked what interest she had to ask advice of *Penautier*, said, *That she prayed him, that if he had any Friend, to employ them in her affair.*

Being interrogated wherefore she assured him, that she would do what ever he advised her; answered, *Knows not wherefore; but that the condition in which she was, demanded counsel of all the world.*

Being

Being asked wherefore she writ to *Theria* at *Maestricht*, to take away the Process, said, *She knew nothing of it.*

Being asked wherefore in her Letter to *Theria*, she said, *She was a lost woman, if he did not get the Process into his hands*: said, *She did not remember.*

Said, *That she did not perceive her Father was ill, neither in his going to, or return from* Offemon, *in* 1666.

The Cabinet of *St. Croix* having been shewed her, said, *That it did not belong to her, that she knew it not.*

Says, *That she had had no dealing with* Penautier, *but for* 30000 *Crowns, which he ought her.*

That her Husband and herself had lent Penautier 10000 *Crowns, which he repaid; since had had no commerce with him.*

That it was with the advice of her Parents that she reclaimed the Cabinet found with St. Croix.

And now we might insert the Copy of the many Letters found in *St. Croix*'s Cabinet, which declare the great confidence they had in each other, and the engagement that was between them: See one more remarkable than all the rest.

I have thought fit to put an end to my life, and for that purpose I have taken this evening of that which you so kindly gave me; It is of the composure of Glazer. *And by that you shall see how willingly I sacrifice my life to you. But I do not promise you, that before I die, I shall not expect you in some place to bid you the last Adieu.*

One may be cruel to others, but rarely is one so to his self; one often threatens himself, but seldom punishes; pardoning himself for the most part, in hope to escape publick Justice. And thus Madam *de Brinvilliers* outlived her own threatnings; which lets us however see the use she pretended frequently to make of such a Remedy, and the excess of fears which tormented her, and inspired her with such dismal resolutions.

The

The Letters which she writ to *Theris* at the time that she was Arrested at *Liege*, do sufficiently manifest that she then look't upon her self as a lost Woman.

In the first Letter she writes to him, *That he should come in diligence and take her out of the hands of her Guard.*

In the second she wrote, *That they were only eight persons, that five might rout them.*

And in the third, *That if he could not come and relieve her out of the hands of those that carried her away, that he should at least attache the Commissary, that he should kill the Horse of his* Valet de Chambre, *and two of the four Horses that drew his Coach; that he should take away the Cabinet and the Process, and that he should throw them in the fire, otherwise she was lost.*

The Letters she writ during her Imprisonment to the Sieur *Penantier*, gave likewise great evidence against her; in which she sufficiently declares her fears and apprehensions, tells him of the danger she was in, gives him an account of her carriage, and that she disguised things as much as she could, *&c.* Which Letters were still brought to Monsieur the Procureur-General by *Barbier* the Archer, in whom she had so much confidence as to entrust the dilivery of them.

Finally, none can doubt, but that Heaven, the great Revenger of wickedness, permitted that when she was seized, there was found in her Cabinet a faithful Relation of her Life: Those that speak in her favour, call it a Confession, and under that name would bury in silence all it contains. The Dame *de Brinvilliers* said that she writ it when she was in a frenzy, and her mind distracted, and that it ought to be rejected as of no proof. It is a Memoire of several Sheets of Paper, where appears nothing of disorder or fury, but in these horrible crimes that are there related. This being a frank Confession as well of those crimes of which she was accused, as of many more, did contribute very much to the clearness of her Conviction, of which there was before sufficient proof.

Thus far you have an account of the Crimes that were charged upon the Dame *de Brinvilliers*, and of the most considerable

siderable particulars of her Process, which depended some time, the Judges spending whole days in the Examination of Witnesses, the confronting them to the Lady accused, and receiving her defence; who in the mean time was guarded very strictly to prevent her offering any violence to her self by poison or otherwise.

But now she enters upon the last Scene of her Life, and comes to suffer the shame and punishment which her evil Actions had merited: for the Judges after long and serious Consultation at last condemned her, and accordingly pronounced sentence upon her. And because she had not made any Confession of the Crimes of which she was accused, it was ordered that she should be put to the Wrack, to extort that from her by torment, which hitherto she wanted ingenuity to do of her own accord.

The 17 of *July* was appointed for the execution. In the morning early she was called upon, to be put upon the Wrack; which she prevented by a frank and open Confession of all matters: She avowed the Crimes of which she was convicted; Gave an account of several things that before were not so fully know. And as to her self, did not spare to give the History of her whole Life, and of all the Actions of it: She lamented her acquaintance with St. *Croix*, the cause of all her misfortunes; and for the rest, behaved her self with a great deal of Resolution and Christian Disposition. And though she was very weak, having suffered much by sickness; yet with a great deal of firmness and undauntedness she went to suffer what the Publick Justice of the Land had inflicted on her.

From the Prison in the *Conciergerie* she walked bare-footed, and naked, only covered with a Linnen Robe, carrying a large Wax-Taper in her hand, accompanied with the Officers of Justice, and 500 Archers, (who are as it were the Sheriffs Men) to the Church of *Nostre-Dame*; where kneeling before the great Gate of the Church, she made her Confession; that done, she was put into a little Cart, and carried with the same Guard to the *Greve*, the ordinary place where Malefactors

ctors are executed; where a Scaffold was erected: being come thither, she entertained those that were about her several hours with a Relation of all the remarkable passages of her Life, which she did without any the least sign of fear or apprehension of her approaching death; yet with a great sence of the wicked Actions she had committed, for which she desired the pardon of all good people. It would be too long to particularize here all she said: It is enough to add, That having almost wearied her self with much speaking, she concluded all with the usual acts of Devotion, and undauntedly submitted her Neck to the Ax: Her Head being cut off, it was together with her Body burnt, and the Ashes thrown into the Air.

FINIS.

54792